

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 299838 TOSEC 320140

61

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299838 TOSEC 320140

EXDIS FOR SONNENFELDT ONLY FROM C STAFF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SONNENFELDT, HELMUT)

SUBJECT: SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SANFZ)

1. WHEN YOU LEFT HERE, THE BUREAUS WERE WORKING ON AN ACTION MEMO TO THE SECRETARY WHICH WOULD HAVE DISCUSSED THE MERITS OF SWITCHING THE US VOTE FOR THIS PAKISTANI RESOLUTION FROM ABSTENTION, IN THE UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE, TO YES IN THE PLENARY VOTE: THE YES VOTE TO BE CAVEATED BY THE US WITH STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT (1) WE WERE VOTING FOR A STUDY RESOLUTION, RATHER THAN THE ZONE PROPOSAL ITSELF; (2) THE US WOULD NOT SUPPORT A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE WHICH DID NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE PERTINENT REGIONAL POWERS; (3) AND THAT ANY SUCH PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE RULING OUT NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES OF ANY KIND. SOME HERE FELT THAT SWITCHING THE VOTE MIGHT BE USEFUL AS A MEANS TO PURSUADE THE PAKISTANIS THAT, IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR NON-PROLIFERATION INTERESTS, WE WERE INTERESTED IN RELATED MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY AND STABILITY OF THEIR REGION. SOME ADDITIONAL MOMENTUM WAS IMPARTED BY WORD FROM THE UK EMBASSY THAT THEY EXPECTED THEIR GOVERNMENT TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 299838 TOSEC 320140

DECIDE EARLY THIS WEEK TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION,

INDEPENDENTLY OF THE US POSITION.

2. IN THE COURSE OF MULLING OVER THE ARGUMENTS, HOWEVER, OVER THE WEEKEND AND INTO MONDAY SUPPORT FOR CHANGING THE VOTE EVAPORATED SO FAR AS I COULD TELL. THOSE WHO WERE THINKING IN THE BACK OF THEIR MINDS THAT A YES VOTE MIGHT HELP US WITH THE REPROCESSING ISSUE CONCLUDED THAT THIS WAS UNREALISTIC. AS FOR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE, AN EARLY DRAFT CONVINCED ME THAT IT HAD LITTLE INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE AND THAT IF THE BUREAUS COULD NOT FIND SOME STRONG REASON TO SUPPORT A CHANGE, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE PURPOSE IN MY DEMANDING THAT THEY FABRICATE ONE IN ORDER TO SEND A MEMO TO THE SECRETARY THRU YOU.

3. THE PROCESS THEREFORE STOPPED OF ITS OWN ACCORD. AT MY SUGGESTION, LEON SLOSS CALLED THE BRITISH EMBASSY TO ALERT THEM TO THE FACT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE US VOTE WHEN IT CAME TO THE PLENARY. HE LEARNED FROM THEM THAT THE BRITISH HAD IN FACT NOT DECIDED TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION, BUT RATHER WERE PREPARED TO VOTE AS WE DID.

4. TONY REEVE OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY REQUESTED TO SEE ME TODAY AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD HAVE SOME IDEA OF THE ARGUMENTS PRO AND CON. HE UNDERSTOOD, OF COURSE, THAT SOME RE-THINKING HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE DEPARTMENT, AND HE ALSO KNEW WHAT THE OUTCOME HAD BEEN. USING THE DRAFT OF THE PAPER, I SKETCHED IN SOME OF THE PROS AND CONS. HE APPEARED TO AGREE THAT IT WAS A NARROW CALL ON AN ISSUE WHICH DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ALL THAT MUCH WEIGHT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOU WILL HEAR MORE OF THIS IN LONDON. THERE MAY BE SOME INTEREST ON THE BRITISH SIDE AS TO WHETHER THE ISSUE REACHED THE SECRETARY. THE

LINE I HAVE TAKEN WITH REEVE WAS THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN RECONSIDERED BY THE BUREAUS WHICH WERE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THE ORIGINAL DECISION ON GUIDANCE TO NEW YORK, AND THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY STRONG CONVICTION -- FOLLOWING SOME FURTHER ANALYSIS IN WHICH BRITISH VIEWS WERE A FACTOR -- THE SAME BUREAUS HAD OPTED AGAINST MOVING THE DECISION UP

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 299838 TOSEC 320140

THE LINE FOR RECONSIDERATION. ROBINSON

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